MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The Press Committee was appointed on the 13th April, 1923.

(ii) 14th August, 1923.

(iii) 6th May, 1925.

(*b*) Yes; on the 29th May, 1925.

(*c*) The nomination papers are being scrutinised.

(*d*) There has been no avoidable delay in the disposal of papers relating to the Government Press.

Press Committee.

71. **MR. R. PADMANABHAN** (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:

(i) the date of the appointment of the Press Committee;

(ii) the date of submission of their Report; and

(iii) the date on which final orders were passed by the Government?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether they are in receipt of the nomination papers on the reorganisation of the Press, and, if so, when?

(*c*) Have the Government passed orders thereon?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*c*). The member is referred to the answers to parts (*a*) to (*c*) of question No. 70.

MR. R. PADMANABHAN (*Nominated*): When was the post of the Assistant Superintendent of the Government Press abolished?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It was abolished only this year.

MR. R. PADMANABHAN (*Nominated*): To what post was the person who was employed as the Assistant Superintendent transferred?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): He was transferred to the Stationery Department.

MR. R. PADMANABHAN (*Nominated*): Is it a temporary or a permanent post?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a permanent one.

Grievances of the Piece-work Compositors in the Government Press.

72. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the serious discontent that prevails among the piece-work compositors of the Government Press, due to the hardship they are experiencing for the past several years?

(*b*) Are they aware that there are two kinds of employees among the piece-workers do ng similar work?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*c*) Is it a fact that Government have received a large number of complaints and memorials during the past several years, and, if so, what action have they taken on them?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the permanent piece-work compositors recruited after 1090 waited upon the late Dewan and represented their grievances through their Vakil and that the Dewan, after hearing their Vakil, passed favourable orders on the several points raised by him?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, Government Press, has, by giving the Government order an incorrect interpretation, deprived these employees of their legitimate income?

(*f*) Is it a fact that they have again memorialised the Government for a clear exposition of the relevant portion of the Government order, regarding the concessions granted to them, and, if so, whether Government have permitted their Vakil to wait on the Dewan to once more press their claims?

(*g*) Are the Government aware that the computing work done in the Press, even after the passing of the Government order, is not in accordance with the rules laid down in the Government order which clearly says that the vouchers should be valued by the computors and the account books initialled by the compositors?

(*h*) Are the Government aware of the fact that the piece-work compositors of the Government Press feel serious hardship and incur heavy loss owing to the absence of any definite principle or rule by which hour-account is charged on jobs?

(*i*) In view of the existence of the disparity between the two sets of compositors recruited before and after 1090 and in view of the similar work done by both, do the Government think it right to grant the minimum monthly allowance to one set only?

(*j*) Is it a fact that the Press Committee have said that there is not sufficient work to keep all the piece-work employees of the Press fully engaged throughout the year, and, if so, what steps have the Government taken to dispense with the temporary staff?

(*k*) In view of the fact that the Government have clearly stated in the Government order that the piece-work employees recruited before 1090 should be supplied with enough matter regularly, do they not think that the interests of those recruited after 1090 should also be similarly safeguarded?

(*l*) In the absence of enough work for all the piece-work employees of the Press uniformly throughout the year, have the Government proposed any remedy to compensate for the time wasted in the Press for no fault of theirs?

(*m*) Will the Government be pleased to appoint the Work Committee foreshadowed in the Government order?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*)

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Yes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. Narayanan Pandalay.]

(*c*) Yes. The complaints and memorials were referred to the Press Committee and the recommendations made by them have in the main been accepted.

(*d*) Yes. The orders of Government on their representations are embodied in the G. O. issued on the Press Committee's Report.

(*e*) and (*f*) The representations received from the piece-work employees on the point are under the consideration of Government.

(*g*) and (*h*) The Government are not aware.

(*i*) The two sets of men were recruited under totally different conditions.

(*j*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In regard to the second part, it may be stated that a portion of the temporary staff has already been dispensed with and instructions issued that all Government printing should be done in the Government Press itself and that no work costing more than Rs. 50 should be given outside unless the Press Superintendent certifies that the work could not be undertaken by him without prejudice to other Government work already in hand.

(*k*) and (*l*) Sufficient work is given to these piece-workers.

(*m*) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to part (*d*), may I know the concessions now allowed to the permanent piece-workers recruited after 1090?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is contained in paragraph 2 of the G. O., which runs thus —

"In regard to the permanent piece-workers recruited since 1090, the proposals of the Committee are that these men may be given fifteen days' casual leave each year, wages for these days being calculated at the rate of .. .. .. and the general concessions to permanent piece-workers should be extended to these men also as far as applicable."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What I want to know is whether the general concessions that were allowed to the permanent piece-workers recruited before 1090 are allowed to the piece-workers recruited after 1090.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): With respect to these men, the concession is that they also be given sufficient work so that they may earn a sufficient amount every month.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What I want to know is whether the concessions that are allowed to the men recruited before 1090, that is to say, casual leave, holidays &c., are allowed to the men recruited after 1090.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think they are.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*); If the G. O. is extened to them, how is it that they are not given these concessions?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The G. O. only says that these concessions should be extended "*as far as applicable.*" Many of the concessions applicable to those men are not applicable to the men recruited after 1090.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Why is it not applicable?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Because these latter men are not permanently entertained; they are borne on the temporary staff.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How are those vacancies of the men recruited before 1090 filled up?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government order is that those vacancies should not be filled up.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I want to know how are the vacancies of the permanent men filled up.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The orders are that those vacancies should not be filled up and the men entertained after 1090 are in the temporary staff.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How then is the work carried on when the vacancies of the permanent men are not filled up?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The vacancies arising in the place of the permanent men are not filled up; but additional men are appointed in the temporary staff.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That is to say additional men are appointed among the piece-workers recruited after 1090.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No. That number remains the same. But that number is added to in proportion to the vacancies arising among the men appointed before 1090?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to (*g*) and (*h*), may I know whether this practice is now adopted in the Press? That is to say, are the hour account registers regularly initialled by the compositors at the end of every month? Is it uniformly followed in the Press now?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government will enquire.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the principle on which hour-account is charged?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Superintendent has reported that the system followed in the Government Press in this matter is in accordance with that observed in all printing establishments. He says that the system of accounting by lines is followed wherever accounting on that basis is possible and that, wherever the mode of accounting on the basis of lines is not possible, other principles are followed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Does the principle now followed in the Press leave any room for discretion or partiality ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not think it gives room.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to parts (*k*) and (*l*), the answer is: " Sufficient work is given to these piece-workers. " May I know why they memorialised Government if sufficient work is given ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not know why?

MR. K P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is the Government in possession of the memorials submitted by these piece-workers ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I want to know whether Government have considered these memorials.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : These memorials are pending (with the recommendations of the Superintendent) the consideration of Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : How long were they pending?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It will be a month or so.

Grievances of the Piece-Work Compositors in the Government Press.

73. MR. R. PADMANABHAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the serious discontent that prevails among the piece-work compositors of the Government Press, due to the hardship they are experiencing for the past several years ?

(*b*) Are they aware of the fact that there are two kinds of employees among the piece-workers doing similar work ?

(*c*) Have the Government received a large number of complaints and memorials, during the past several years, and, if so, what action have they taken on them ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the permanent piece-work compositors recruited after 1090 waited upon the late Dewan and represented their grievances through their Vakil and that the Dewan, after hearing their Vakil, passed favourable orders on the several points raised by him ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, Government Press, has, by giving the Government order an incorrect interpretation, deprived these employees of their legitimate income ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that they have again memorialised the Government for a clear exposition of the relevant portion of the Government order, regarding the concessions granted to them, and, if so, whether the Government have permitted their Vakil to wait on the Dewan once more to press their claims ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly